AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1 - 7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A portable electronic device with a security function, containing an application program, comprising:

means for storing validity data indicating whether the security function is valid in a nonvolatile memory~~, wherein the validity data is received as a command message from outside of the device~~;

first means for determining whether [[the]] a command message received from outside of the device includes validity data for the security function;

second means for determining whether the validity data is stored in the nonvolatile memory; and

first means for writing or rewriting data in the nonvolatile memory after receiving the command message when the first determining means determines that the command message does not include the validity data for the security function and the second determining means determines the validity data is not stored in the nonvolatile memory.

9. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 8, further comprising:

first means for outputting a status indicating that the command message is not acceptable when the first determining means determines that the command message is

not included in the data for the security function and the second determining means determines that the validity data is stored in the nonvolatile memory.

10. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 8, further comprising:

third means for determining whether verification of the data for the security function succeeded when the first determining means determines the command message is included in the data for the security function; and

second means for writing or rewriting data into the nonvolatile memory following the command message when the third determining means determines the verification was successful.

11. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 10, further comprising:

second means for outputting a status indicating that the command message is not acceptable when the third determining means determines the verification of the data for the security function was not successful.

12. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 9 wherein the command message comprises:

a writing or rewriting command;

data that is written or rewritten into the nonvolatile memory; and

additional data guaranteeing validity of the data based on verification of the data.

13. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 9 wherein the command message comprises:

a writing or rewriting command; and

encoded data that is written or rewritten into the nonvolatile memory after being decoded based on verification of the data.

14. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 10 wherein the command message comprises:

a writing or rewriting command;

encoded data that is written or rewritten into the nonvolatile memory after being decoded; and

additional data guaranteeing validity of the data,; ~~and~~ wherein:

the verification of the data is performed based on the encoded data and the additional data.

15. (Original) The device of claim 9, wherein the nonvolatile memory stores a plurality of security programs different from each other depending on a corresponding application program.

16. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 13, wherein a plurality of security programs are separately validated in response to a prescribed command message for validation, and wherein each security program corresponds to an application program.

17. (Original) The device of claim 13, wherein at least one available format of the command message is separately defined, and wherein each format corresponds to an application program.